

REMARKS

Pending claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 10 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claim 5 has been cancelled. After these amendments are entered, ten (10) Claims (claims 1-4 and 6-11) are pending.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockinger et al. in view of the admitted prior art set forth in instant specification at page 2, line 22 through page 3, line 5 and Thompson (US 4,011,313). The rejection of claim 5 is moot in view of cancellation of this claim. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection over claims 1-4 and 6-11 is respectfully traversed.

The primary reference, alone or in combination with the secondary reference, does not suggest or teach all of the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. For example, none of the cited primary and secondary references discloses or suggests anything about use of citric acid or 2-ketoglutaric acid or biocompatible salt thereof as a stabilizer for a poly(oxyalkylene)-containing polymeric material. As such, the Applicant's invention is not obvious, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over claims 1-4 and 6-11.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, the Applicant submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in conditions for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,



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